

# **LETTER TO LEON VALLEY CITIZENS**

**From Mayor Chris Riley**

**February 23, 2024**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024- Special City Council Meeting, 9:00a.m at City Hall** to discuss: 1) Huebner Creek Flood and/or Erosion Control project which affects the Natural Area Park with the possible removal of 403 trees; and 2) Updating the City of Leon Valley's Mission and Vision Statement. Citizen input is greatly appreciated and valued. Hope to see you there!

**Sunday, February 25, 2024 – Last day to place items at the curb for Spring Clean Up Week.** Tiger Sanitation will pick up bulky items such as furniture, water heaters, appliances and brush next week. Please follow the guidelines on your postcard.

**Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Earthwise Living Day, 9 am – 1 pm at the Leon Valley Community Center.** Everyone is invited to this free, family educational event, celebrating 34 years of bringing our community together to expand our knowledge of preserving the environment. Earthwise Living Day is the oldest environmental fair in Bexar County, beginning in 1990, when Leon Valley led the way by establishing the first curbside recycling program in Bexar County and South Texas. Free Admission. Besides educational booths, musical performances from area schools, food and plant sales, VIA electric bus, children's recycling art activities, there will be an opportunity for you to dispose of your electronics (cell phones, computers, tv's, screens, etc) at the event. The grand door prize will be a \$500 gift certificate to HEB. You must be present to win. Looking forward to a good turnout and a beautiful day!

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING –February 20, 2024**

The following are highlights of council actions from the February 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting which began at 6:00 p.m., due to an executive session at the end of the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION**

**Discussion on the Procedure to Distribute the Trash Survey** – Three options were presented to Council: use a survey company, (\$12,000), use Google form which would be handled in house, not costing the city any money or mail the survey out to residents and businesses for a cost of \$5,528. The Council voted to mail the survey to residents and businesses. The survey results will be used to develop a request for proposal to solicit bids from garbage contractors in 2024. (Tiger Sanitation's 7 year contract will expire in January, 2025).

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Council Approved a Resolution Amending the Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for Leon Valley's Municipal Court** - This pertains when a person fails to appear (FTA) or fails to pay or satisfy a judgment as required by law. DPS uses the FTA to deny renewal of a driver license. Municipal Court collects the statutory reimbursement fee (\$10) from the person who failed to appear. \$6.00 is paid to the DPS vendor and \$4 to the general fund of the municipality. Other changes made by the 88<sup>th</sup> legislature were also updated in this contract, which will expire in 2029. The red light camera tickets are not included in this contract.

**Council Discussed Amending Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance in Accordance with the Health and Safety Code** – effective September 1, 2023 the Legislature decided that Cities can no longer charge for both a Health Inspection and an Alcoholic beverage permit for restaurants and bars. A definition for BYOB was added and an increase from \$50 to \$80 was recommended by staff to cover the cost of background checks and staff time involved. This agenda item is expected to be approved by council on the March 5<sup>th</sup> consent agenda.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discussed the City Attorney position and attendance at council meetings.** The law firm Messer Fort, which represents the city, merged with another law firm in November, 2023. The contract was updated to

clarify which experienced attorney would be appearing in person for one of our council meetings, and virtually at the other meeting. Art Rodriguez will be the primary attorney with Brad Bullock as the back up attorney.

Our next city council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at city hall.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - City Elections will be held to elect Mayor, Place 2 and Place 4 positions.** As of the February 16<sup>th</sup> filing deadline, the only contested election will be for Mayor. In Place 2, Councilor Josh Stevens decided not to run for re-election and Betty Heyl filed unopposed. In Place 4, Councilor Rey Orozco filed for re-election and is unopposed. The last day to register to vote in the city election is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 6 pm at the Conference Center.** Anyone who has volunteered in the last year on a city committee will be honored for their service. Mark your calendar, an invitation will be forthcoming.

Today the temperature was 88 degrees on February 22<sup>nd</sup> ! We need to enjoy this beautiful weather while it lasts. Can you imagine what the temperature will be in May?

If we can assist you with any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or any councilmember. Thank you.

Sincerely, Chris  
(210) 618-2092